

***In the Claims***

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1        1.    [Previously amended] A method for providing procurement  
2        services to a plurality of customer companies, comprising  
3        the steps of:

4                establishing in a computer database a user profile for  
5                each person authorized by a customer company to access  
6                said procurement services;

7                associating each said company with a company group of  
8                related companies;

9                said user profile specifying for each said user a user  
10               company and company group;

11               providing for each procurement resource to be shared  
12               among said users a resource profile in a computer  
13               database specifying for each resource those said  
14               companies to have access to said procurement resource;  
15               and

16 responsive to said user profile and said resource  
17 profiles, controlling user access to said procurement  
18 resources.

1 2. [Original] The method of claim 1, further comprising  
2 the step of providing said procurement resources in a front-  
3 end catalog and requisition server.

1 3. [Original] The method of claim 2, further comprising  
2 the steps of:

3 receiving a user request from a first client browser to  
4 log in to said front-end server;

5 responsive to said request, providing a user interface  
6 at said client browser only to procurement resources  
7 authorized by said user profile and said resource  
8 profiles.

1 4. [Original] The method of claim 2, further comprising  
2 the steps of:

3 receiving requests from a plurality of users authorized  
4 by different company groups to enter a requisition to a  
5 vendor with respect to the same catalog or contract  
6 resource; and

7 generating separate purchase orders to said vendor with  
8 respect to requisitions originating with users from  
9 each said company group.

1 5. [Original] The method of claim 4, further comprising  
2 the steps of:

3 leveraging procurement buys from a plurality of company  
4 groups with respect to the same volume specific  
5 contract for goods or services.

1 6. [Original] The method of claim 2, further comprising  
2 the steps of:

3 allowing said user to apply procurement charges to  
4 charge centers only within his company group.

1       7.    [Original]   The method of claim 3, said procurement  
2       resources including a vendor catalog.

1       8.    [Original]   The method of claim 3, said procurement  
2       resources including a blanket order procurement contract for  
3       goods or services.

1       9.    [Original]   The method of claim 3, said procurement  
2       resources including a user profile table.

1       10.   [Original]   The method of claim 3, said procurement  
2       resources including costs centers.

1       11.   [Original]   The method of claim 3, said procurement  
2       resources including accounting general ledger codes with  
3       company group specific accounting rules and defaults.

1       12.   [Original]   System for providing procurement services  
2       to a plurality of customer companies, comprising:

3 a front end server;

4 a user profile for each person authorized by a customer  
5 company to access said procurement services;

6 each said company associated with a company group of  
7 related companies;

8 said user profile specifying for each said user a user  
9 company and company group;

10 a plurality of procurement resources to be shared among  
11 said users;

12 a resource profile for each said procurement resource  
13 specifying those said companies to have access to said  
14 procurement resource; and

15 said user profile and said resource profiles for  
16 controlling user access to said procurement resources.

1 13. [Original] The system of claim 12, said procurement  
2 resources further comprising:

3 vendor catalog;

4 a blanket order procurement contract for goods or  
5 services; and

6 a table of user profiles.

1 14. [Original] The system of claim 12, said procurement  
2 resources further comprising:

3 costs centers; and

4 accounting general ledger codes with company group  
5 specific accounting rules and defaults.

1 15. [Original] A program storage device readable by a  
2 machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions  
3 executable by a machine to perform method steps for  
4 providing procurement services to a plurality of customer  
5 companies, said method steps comprising:

6 establishing a user profile for each person authorized

7 by a customer company to access said procurement  
8 services;

9 associating each said company with a company group of  
10 related companies;

11 said user profile specifying for each said user a user  
12 company and company group;

13 providing for each procurement resource to be shared  
14 among said users a resource profile specifying for each  
15 resource those said companies to have access to said  
16 procurement resource; and

17 responsive to said user profile and said resource  
18 profiles, controlling user access to said procurement  
19 resources.

1 16. [Original] The program storage device of claim 15,  
2 said method steps further comprising providing said  
3 procurement resources in a front-end catalog and requisition  
4 server.

1       17. [Original] The program storage device of claim 16,  
2       said method steps further comprising the steps of:

3               receiving a user request from a first client browser to  
4               log in to said front-end server;

5               responsive to said request, providing a user interface  
6               at said client browser only to procurement resources  
7               authorized by said user profile and said resource  
8               profiles.

1       18. [Original] The program storage device of claim 16,  
2       said method steps further comprising the steps of:

3               receiving requests from a plurality of users authorized  
4               by different company groups to enter a requisition to a  
5               vendor with respect to the same catalog or contract  
6               resource; and

7               generating separate purchase orders to said vendor with  
8               respect to requisitions originating with users from  
9               each said company group.



1 19. [Original] The program storage device of claim 18,said  
2 method steps further comprising the steps of:

3 leveraging procurement buys from a plurality of company  
4 groups with respect to the same volume specific  
5 contract for goods or services.

1 20. [Original] The program storage device of claim 16,  
2 said method steps further comprising the steps of:

3 allowing said user to apply procurement charges to  
4 charge centers only within his company group.

1 21. [Original] The program storage device of claim 17,  
2 said procurement resources including a vendor catalog.

1 22. [Original] The program storage device of claim 17,  
2 said procurement resources including a blanket order  
3 procurement contract for goods or services.

1     23.   [Original]   The program storage device of claim 17,  
2     said procurement resources including a user profile table.

1     24.   [Original]   The program storage device of claim 17,  
2     said procurement resources including costs centers.

1     25.   [Original]   The program storage device of claim 17,  
2     said procurement resources including accounting general  
3     ledger codes with company group specific accounting rules  
4     and defaults.

1     26.   [Original]   A computer program product or computer  
2     program element for providing procurement services to a  
3     plurality of customer companies according to method steps  
4     comprising:

5             establishing a user profile for each person authorized  
6             by a customer company to access said procurement  
7             services;

8             associating each said company with a company group of

9           related companies;

10           said user profile specifying for each said user a user

11           company and company group;

12           providing for each procurement resource to be shared

13           among said users a resource profile specifying for each

14           resource those said companies to have access to said

15           procurement resource; and

16           responsive to said user profile and said resource

17           profiles, controlling user access to said procurement

18           resources.